

Avacopan Therapy

What is avacopan?

Avacopan is used to treat adults with worsening disease caused by inflammation of the small blood vessels, called vasculitis or granulomatosis with polyangiitis (GPA) and microscopic polyangiitis (MPA).

- **GPA** mainly affects small blood vessels and tissues in the kidneys, lung, throat, nose and sinuses, but also other organs. Patients develop small lumps (granulomas) in and around blood vessels, which are formed by tissue damage due to inflammation.
- **MPA** affects the smaller blood vessels. It often affects the kidneys but may also affect other organs.

How does it work?

Avacopan attaches to a specific protein in the body, called complement 5a receptor. It is also known as Tavneos®

Complement 5a receptor has a key role in stimulating inflammation. Avacopan attaches to it and prevents it from working, thereby reducing inflammation of blood vessels seen in these diseases.

What do I need to know before I start taking avacopan?

Avacopan should not be taken if you have liver problems or an active infection.

How do I take it?

Avacopan is available as 10mg capsules.

- You should always take the medicines as directed by your doctor.
- You should take three capsules (30mg) twice a day.
- Avoid grapefruit juice and grapefruit as this can affect avacopan.

Do I need any special checks while on avacopan?

It is important to have regular blood tests. If you don't have regular blood tests it is not safe for your clinician to prescribe avacopan for you.

Does avacopan interfere with my other medicines?

Avacopan can interact with other medicines. You should tell your doctor which medicines you are taking before starting avacopan.

Other medicines which can cause problems with avacopan include:

- Clarithromycin, erythromycin - antibiotic medicines to treat bacterial infections.
- Ciclosporin, tacrolimus or sirolimus - medicines to suppress the immune system and prevent transplant rejection.
- Dabigatran - a blood thinning medicine.
- Medicines to treat HIV or hepatitis B infections.
- Itraconazole, posaconazole, voriconazole - medicines to treat fungal infections.

Always check with your doctor or pharmacist first before starting any new medication.

Can avacopan cause side effects?

All medicines can cause unwanted side effects. Some side effects can be serious. Side effects that you may experience include:

- Very common (may affect more than 1 in 10 people)
 - blood test showing increased levels of liver enzymes (a sign of liver problems).
 - lung inflammation (symptoms can be wheezing, difficulty breathing, or chest pain).
- Common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people)
 - lung inflammation (symptoms can be wheezing, difficulty breathing, or chest pain).
 - blood test showing increased levels of bilirubin (a yellow breakdown substance of the blood pigment).
- Other side effects which can occur very commonly:
 - infection of the upper airways.
 - sore and inflamed throat and nose.
 - Headache.
 - feeling sick (nausea) or vomiting.
 - Diarrhoea.
 - decreased white blood cell count seen in blood tests.

Please let us know if you think you experience a side effect.

What happens if I forget to take a dose?

- If you have more than 3 hours to go until your next scheduled dose, take the missed dose as soon as possible and then take your next dose at the right time.
- If it is less than 3 hours to your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Just take your next dose at the usual time.
- Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

Is Avacopan okay in pregnancy and breastfeeding?

Avacopan should be avoided if you are pregnant or breastfeeding. If you are planning to become pregnant while you are taking avacopan, you should discuss this with your doctor.

Top tips

- Have your blood tests regularly.
- Let the team know when you have 2 weeks of capsules left to give time for bloods to be checked and a new supply of medication to be organised. Call or email the renal pharmacists (contact details on the next page).
- It is important to have regular blood tests as mentioned in this leaflet. If you don't have regular blood tests it is not safe for your renal team to prescribe avacopan for you.
- Avacopan will be reviewed after 12 months and may be stopped at that point.

Useful contact details

East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust:

- Website www.enherts-tr.nhs.uk
- Telephone 01438 314333

For patients under the Renal Team

Renal Pharmacists (to order more medication):

- Telephone 01438 284677
- Email - renalpharmacists.enh-tr@nhs.net

For patients under the Rheumatology Team

To order more medication:

- Telephone 01438 285624
- Email - enh-tr.rheumadvice@nhs.net

Medicines information:

- Telephone 01438 286150
- Email - medinfo.enhtr@nhs.net

Leaflet information

You can request this information in a different format or another language; please speak to your doctor or nurse.

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